

THE MORNING APPEAL.

FRIDAY..... JANUARY 10

FROM TIGRESS TO WOMAN.

When Maria Barberi killed her faithless lover, in April last, she was a tigress of the streets of New York, an untrained creature with passions as wild as any beast that lurks in the jungles of the tropics. She could not speak English or read it, nor write it—but those were minor matters. She had not the first notion of even that self-control which gives ordinary criminals the cunning to conceal crime, that they may escape its consequences. Her lover had wronged her in his devotion to another woman. Her first fierce desire was for his blood, and she gloried in the shedding of it. She would have gloried, equally, in the shedding of the blood of the other woman, had not the coming of the police fortunately interfered with the full fruition of her vengeance. As it was, Maria Barberi gained the sympathy of the press and the public by the very shamelessness of her conduct after arrest. The press and the public could not believe a woman who saw no wrong and suffered no remorse in such a crime responsible for her act. There were extenuating circumstances, moreover, in the conduct of the lover slain, but that, too, was a minor matter. The officers of the law and students of criminology saw behind the bars in the girl simply a savage young animal that had tasted blood—and that might not be permitted to go at large, lest the taste grow upon it.

Maria Barberi was tried for the crime of murder, and was sentenced to death in the electrical chair at Sing Sing. The officers of the law might see her plain lack of responsibility, as they might have seen it in any other young animal, but she was a human being and not insane. The duty of the officers and the intent of the law were plain. Maria Barberi was taken to prison to wait for death, and the wife of the warden at Sing Sing became interested in the girl and undertook to train the human qualities which she believed were only dormant. Now, mark the wonderful change. In less than six months Maria Barberi has changed from a tigress to a young woman of gentle manners and refined instincts. She has learned not only to read, but also to write, English—and she feels, and that keenly, the position in which her mind has awakened to find her placed. It is no new thing for a murderer to experience a change of heart in the shadows of the gallows—or of the electrical chair, if the chair casts a shadow—but the experience of Maria Barberi has been vastly different from the repentance coming only with the hope of immunity from present crime. She has been born again in prison, and at the new birth has received a human soul.

"Maria Barberi," says the wife of the warden, speaking of her, "is a simple, unaffected young girl, with a natural sense of propriety."

The case of the girl is pending in the New York Court of Appeals, but her awakening can have no bearing upon that. Even if it could, the girl is not believed to be possessed of a sufficient sense of policy to have marked out such a line of conduct. The Court of Appeals must decide the matter upon points of law purely, and in the meantime in Sing Sing prison the soul of a human being is grouping upward to the light that is breaking only as the end of its day on earth may be drawing near.

It is true that the appeal to the clemency of the Governor of New York is yet to be made, and for many reasons it is to be hoped the appeal will be favorably acted upon. It would be interesting, in view of the development of her new character in prison, to observe the kind of life a tamed tigress would lead put in full fellowship with human beings. More than that there would be a manifest unfairness in the execution of the young girl now held in the condemned cell at Sing Sing. The Maria Barberi who killed her lover and who was doomed to death is not the same Maria Barberi now held for murder. "A simple, unaffected young girl, with a natural sense of refinement and propriety," would not have driven a dagger into the heart of her recent lover.

The above is from the San Francisco Bulletin. The plea that the woman now under sentence is not the same one who did the killing is very far fetched. The facts of the case are that the man she killed seduced her under promise of marriage. When she asked him to keep faith with her, he answered with a sneer. "Pigs marry I don't." She drew a knife and killed him on the spot. A man who could make such a remark under such circumstances was unfit to live, and the girl was fully justified in killing him.

Notice.

J. Beleave, the jeweler, who has been located at the Briggs' House for the past six-months, has opened a jewelry store next door to the Ormsby House. He invites the public to call and inspect a new line of jewelry and watches that he will offer at reasonable prices. Special prices for the Holidays. All repairing and goods guaranteed. d21

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Notice of Dissolution of Partnership.

The co-partnership heretofore existing under the firm name and style of Kersey & Yerington and doing and transacting a general insurance business, life, fire and accident, in Carson City, Ormsby County, Nevada, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent, J. D. Kersey retiring from said firm and Hume Yerington assuming full charge and control of the business. All persons who are indebted to the said firm are requested to make payment to Mr. Hume Yerington immediately, he assuming all indebtedness of said firm and authorized to collect all moneys due to said firm.

J. D. KERSEY,
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December 31, 1895.

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